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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Woman Who Wants a Warship.

This question from Mr. JAMES B. MASTER really expresses the political theories and presents the private aspirations of his excellent wife, and therefore it gets prompt attention here:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIF: An argument has come up in our home circle which you certainly can settle. Mrs. Master says that all one needs to do to enjoy the use of some United States ship is to write to the President at Oyster Bay. If he knows you, or knows some of your relatives, he gives permission at once. The other side of the argument was that the President never did such a thing, and could not, under the Constitution, do such a thing. This is for you to answer I hope he has the right, for I shall at once, after being so informed, ask him to lend us a ship for our summer outing, as 1 am well acquainted with some of his relatives and have voted for him every time be ran for office. JAMES B. MASTER. " NEW YORK, June 27."

It gives us pleasure to decide that in this case the intuitions of the woman are more accurate than the constitutional ratiocinations of the man and voter. President ROOSEVELT is Commander-in-Chief of the Army and of the Navy, and also Chief Executive of the Federal Power to Regulate Commerce. What he cannot do under the Constitution-or, at least, what he will not be graciously pleased to undertake to do, either under or over the Constitution-has not yet been ascertained. He can ring for a warship if he chooses. He does ring for a warship when he wants one for the use of himself or of his children, at Oyster Bay or elsewhere. His freedom of selection in this respect is uninfluenced by the somewhat severe language of Section 5,456 of the Revised Statutes, or by any other law apparently designed to prevent the misappropriation to personal use of the property of the United States. He takes the ship, not feloniously as an embezzler, but openly and magisterially as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy and Chief Executive of the Federal Power to Regulate Commerce. To his credit be it frankly said that there has been no evidence of constitutional misgivings on his part, much less of any personal sense of wrongdoing and shame, on any known occasion when Mr. Roose-VELT has rung to summon to himself a

vessel of war. We therefore encourage the estimable MASTERS in their project of application to Oyster Bay. It is within their rights as citizens and entirely consistent with the magnificent principle of the Square Deal for them to petition for some part of the United States Navy for the vacation convenience and pleasure of their interesting family. The reply will doubtless depend on the potency of the Masress' credentials. They may not get the Sylph this week, but we are credibly informed that the Connecticut, the Alabama, the Mayflower and the submarine Porpoise are not at this moment engaged.

Peace Proposals at The Hague.

Among the proposals which have been submitted to the Hague Conference and which the Powers that offer them will try to get incorporated in international law two are of particular interest. One of the innovations is urged by General HORACE PORTER, ex-Ambassador of the United States to the French Republic, and the other by ex-Minister DRAGO of the Argentine delegation.

If the Hague Conference is not a farce and if the Powers therein represented sincerely wish to mitigate the horrors of war, the proposal made by General HORACE PORTER should be sure of an unfortified seaport be subjected to the alternative of bombardment or the payment of a ruinous ransom? The imposition of such an alternative is revolting to the enlightened international conscience of our day, and it is high time that a prohibition of it should be embodied in the law of nations. The reform advocated by General PORTER is set forth in two propositions. He would have the Hague Conference declare first that the bombardment of unfortified and undefended towns and places by way of punishment for the non-payment of ransom shall be forbidden. It is scarcely credible that in a gathering ostensibly convoked for the highest humanitarian purposes the voice of a single delegate will be raised against such a proposal.

Undoubtedly, however, there are circumstances under which the inhabitants of an unfortified seaport cannot reasonably expect to escape some of the hard-Those conditions are specified in Genwould have the conference concede that | agricultural produce proceeded without even undefended towns, villages or buildings are liable to damages incidental to the destruction of neighboring military or naval establishments, of public depots of munitions of war, or of war vessels in harbor. General PORTER goes even further and would have international law declare that undefended towns, villages or buildings may be liable to bombardment if reasonable requisitions for provisions and supplies at the time essential to the hostile naval force making such requisitions are withheld. In this case, bowever, due notice of the bombard-

adapted to contingencies very likely to occur, General PORTER's proposal ought to meet with general approval.

The form in which the Drago doctrine is now submitted by its author to the international conference is so modified that it ought to disarm most of its opponents. Its author insists, as he has always insisted, that the liquidation of contractual debts due from the Government of a debtor country to the subjects or cftizens of another must be sought in the first instance through the ordinary courts of the debtor country. He concedes that if the decision of those courts be against the debtor State and the State nevertheless refuses to pay, force may be used by the creditor. The United States could not and would not object to the exercise of coercion in such a case provided the creditor should refrain from a permanent occupation of the debtor's territory. The novelty in the present proposal of Señor DRAGO is that it is provided by the international rule which he asks the Hague Conference to promulgate that either party may appeal from the decision of the local courts

forcible interposition. We can see no reason why the so-called Drago doctrine thus defined should not be incorporated in the law of nations, and we are glad that the United States has become a sponsor for it.

to the Hague tribunal, whose judgment

State may be followed by the creditor's

not complied with by the debtor

332.

Number of delegates in the Republican national convention of 1908: 992. Necessary to a choice: 497. Southern delegates: 332.

Almost a third of the convention will be Southern. In the hands of an unscrupulous President the Federal patronage in the South might easily be made to decide the choice of the candidate for President.

Fortunately Mr. ROOSEVELT is the most shadow of a shade of suspicion of any other purpose than the good of the service and the country can hover over any appointment of his. While he is President no Federal employee would dare to sully by the smallest political activity, by the slightest interference at primaries, by even the faintest effort at influencing the selection of delegates-no Federal employee would dare to sully by such an impropriety the chastity of Mr. Roosevelt's civil service record. If any postmaster, collector or other placeman should forget that and himself and plunge into politics in the old brutal fashion, sharp would be the axe and swift the blow.

If Mr. ROOSEVELT ever meddled, if he were a spoils politician and not a civil service reformer, 332 might be an ominous number. Whereas it is merely a number that may interest the glutton of statistics.

A Zamboanga Cattle Show.

"Zamboanga, the key to the Orient," neld its first cattle show and agricultural exhibition in February, and the account of it compiled by Captain JOHN P. FINLEY, Twenty-seventh Infantry, Governor of the district, indicates that this experiment resulted in much good to the Moro community in which it was held. On February 11 a reception and hop were given in the Army and Navy Club. The seventeen Moro exchanges, the superintendents of all of which are natives, had a large exhibit, the Zamboanga fish market showing sixty-five varieties food fish. The Bank of Zamboanga gave daily exhibitions of rice hulling and cleaning by American machinery at

its mill. The fair opened on February 12 with a parade, in which, besides the United States military and naval detachments, these organizations took part:

Zamboanga Filipino Band. Samal Moros, Datto Raja MUDA MANDI Joloano Moros, the Sultan of Sulu. Magindanao Moros, the Sultan of Magindanao Cotabato Moros, Datto Mastula. Lanao Moros, Datto SANGACALA

Bagobos, Timuay TANGCALA Subanos, Timuay IMBING and Blas LAGOBRA. Yakans, Datto MUJAMAT MUSALUM. Illanos, Datto Guimba. Zamboanga School Children

In the evening the naval and army ships in the harbor were illuminated. The morning of the second day athletics occupied most of the programme, beginning with a tug-of-war in which Filipinos pulled against Moros. Then came a sack race, a rickshaw race, Moro and Filipino running races, a kite flying contest, a basketball game, and a Moro baby race in bamboo walking chairs. In the afternoon the aquatic events were decided, classes for Americans, Europeans, Moros, of acceptance. Should the inhabitants | Chinese and Filipinos being established. These were followed by a "Grand Piratical Attack by Moros in Vintas and Sapits." The attack was repulsed. The American bluejackets made an attack in small boats, and a native parade of 500 Moro boats, vintas, sapits, dalamas, bancas and lankans ended the water sports.

The programme for the next two days included contests in cocoanut shucking, wrestling matches for all nations, jumping, Moro dancing girls, nipa making contests (to finish ten nipas, each one braza in length), Moro spear dancing, fancy dancing by Filipinos, cocoanut tree climbing, spear throwing, climbing greased pole extending over the water, and carrera de cintas. Receptions were given on the warships, and the Nineteenth Infantry minstrel troupe appeared in blackface. There were grand balls, with the dancing of all nations, and concerts by the military, naval and constabulary bands. A most attractive schedule of ships inseparable from the curse of war. social diversions and athletic competitions. As it was carried out the judging eral PORTER's second proposition. He of live stock, domestic manufactures and

delay. The list of prizes and their winners differs in no material way from the record of a New England cattle show. Moro Toling took first prize for rabbits. J. M. TIAWA got certificates of merit for a four footed chicken and a three legged goat, as did VICTORIANO TARROZA for a cow with five udders. Luis HERRERA showed a five sprout cocoanut. All the departments of art and science were represented by exhibits, and as Brigadier-General TASKEB H. BLISS'S horse was third, being besten in its class by steeds

ment must be given. Thus qualified and owned by two Lieutenants, the judging may be regarded as fair.

The literary exercises, in which six speakers took part, were of a high order of merit. A model speech was that of Datto Raja MUDA MANDI, Headman of Tribal Ward Two, on February 12:

"MY FRIENDS: In no period of our time have these events ever before happened, nor have they before been seen. We did not know what they were. This fair is a thing of much importance. Therefore, my friends, open your eyes and see what we never did during Spanish times. We must give up all evil thoughts and devote ourselves to agriculture. All of this we owe to the Government of the United States. Well then! citizens, let us forget the copper, love the gold and silver, and send our children to school.'

Could sound sense be better worded? Datto Mandi deserves applause. Listen, too, to Moro AWKASA:

" MOROS AND FRIENDS: We have gathered here this week to enjoy ourselves and learn. We are living in the richest province in the Philippines. Our natural resources are capable of producing untold wealth, and we lack only laborers and tillers of the soil. But if we wish to get this wealth, if we wish to prosper, we must be industrious. We must send our boys and girls to school where they can learn what to do and how to do it.

"We should thank the officials and all others who helped to bring about this fair, who have brought people from other parts of the islands so that we may mingle with one another, and when we get back to our homes we shall have learned things that will help us and help our people.

"This is the first fair we have ever had, but we hope it will not be the last. We hope to have an other next year and every year in future, and next year we should try to bring in more hemp and bigger ears of corn. I thank you for your kind attention.

With Moro AWKASA we hope that the Zamboanga Industrial and Agricultural Fair may be held every year in future. When he and Datto Mandi speak again

may we be there to hear.

Eastern Injustice to a Fervid Western Statesman.

Old readers of our hitherto amiable contemporary the Boston Transcript shudder illustrious of civil service reformers. No | as they find in it these words of levity and indecorum

> " As for FAIRBANES-stuff and nonsense! Men tion his name in any live Western community and there are prompt and unmistakable signs of a hard winter and a late spring. If through some mad jest of the gods FAIRBANES were to capture the 1908 convention his vote in the West would have to be sought under the head of 'scattering.' '

These scandalous assertions are made by a contributor, but the license given to him is none the less regrettable. Yet neither Eastern malice nor envy can affect the estimation in which Mr. FAIR-BANKS is held in the live West. From day to day he continues his round of beneficent activities. He has just laid the cornerstone of an automobile factory in a live Western community, and if we had space to print his cheerful remarks on that occasion even his enemies could not deny that he is as sound in opinion and as felicitous in expression when he celebrates a devil-wagonry as when he dedicates a dairy. But we love him best at home, in livest Indianapolis. His speech at the opening of the Schissel bathhouse was full of the tall moral tone, the healthy sentiment, the prudence, conservatism and sagacity for which he is admired wherever he has admirers. May we be forgiven for taking only a bead or two from this dazzling string?

Cleanliness is said to be next to godliness. " It is a reassuring fact that our citizens take hold of those things which tend to promote the welfare of the entire body of our people.

" In order to have a well ordered community t is necessary to have physical cleanliness. Indianapolis should be the model city

The kindling ardor runs from the peak of the impassioned orator to the remotest wave of the sea of faces in Military Park, opposite the bathhouse. That ardor will run and burn to the remotest confines of the wildest West. Boston, arid, withered, ancient, bereft of the heat and fire of enthusiasm, may cry "Stuff and nonsense!" Mr. FAIR-BANKS will continue to set not only the Wabash but the prairies on fire. Temperament tells.

The Street Cleaners' Strike.

The serious conditions resulting from the strike of the drivers in the Street Cleaning Department are already apparent. Unless the city authorities succeed in removing the accumulation of refuse soon the health of the community is sure to be affected adversely. Fortunately the city has practically unlimited powers to relieve the situation.

Through the Health Department it can exercise authority in a manner not to be withstood. Its resources of money on hand are ample. Any interference with new drivers or employees hired to take the places of the strikers can be prevented by the police. The city, under an efficient administration, should have far less difficulty in transacting its business during a strike than a private employer.

As to the rights of the dispute that sent the drivers into the street, all is not clear. One fact, however, is amply proved. The greatest problem for the Department of Street Cleaning in the summer of this year of grace is not, as Commissioner CRAVEN has frequently said, the necessity of laying the dust. It is the necessity of maintaining an organization competent and willing to do the work of the department promptly and properly.

The Concentration of Wealth.

A few years ago some now unidentified nvestigator discovered the well known fact that there are in this country a few very rich people and a great many who are not rich. The discoverer submitted his conjecture as to the percentage of wealth holders and their holdings in comparison with the percentage of the non-holders of wealth and their little possessions. It proved to be an engaging field of speculation for those who found in it a support for their theories and opinions. Many others have had their guess at the respective percentages. There is a considerable difference in the returns. Some have claimed that 1 per cent. of our population owns or controls 99 per cent. of our accumulated wealth. while others kindly concede a much larger share to the majority. One guess is good until another is made, and the field is open to all who care to enter.

We are told that this absorption of wealth by the few is due to a variety of gol darn you, laught" political conditions and is subject to cor-

rection by a change in those conditions. The arguments and assertions are advanced in a manner which at least implies that the concentration of wealth and the evils which attend it are peculiarly American institutions created by the existing political and economic conditions. The inference from them is that in a country, say like England, where they have free trade, an income tax, a system of Government railway regulation and the Companies act of 1900, wealth is more evenly distributed as a consequence of legislation and political

policies. The Contemporary Review for June contains an article in which figures are handled in a manner which indicates the writer's familiarity with his subject. His conclusion is that "about 95 per cent. of the entire wealth of the United Kingdom is owned by about one-ninth of its population."

This is really worse than any fair and reasonable showing that can be made regarding the concentration of wealth in the United States.

in spite of innumerable exceptions the educated man, by and large, is the moral man.—Professor S. H. CLARE of the University of Chicago. The number of educated men being lim-

ited, and the exceptions being "innumerable," the professor's point is not piercing.

The Withholding of Ranch Titles. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Mr. Linthicum of the Rico News might in truth have said more. He could have pointed out not only the narrowing of opportunity among smaller stockmen by arbitrary reservation of grazing lands, but also difficulties the Roosevelt régime has placed around title

acquiring by honest and industrious ranch-

It is not generally knewn, apparently, that the President asked Congress for a large fund for "inspection" of lands and claims. Congress properly refused to waste large sums for title indorsements, usually per-

functory, especially as adequate machinery already existed; whereupon the Administration petulantly decreed, in effect, that no fur-ther titles can or shall be perfected until his will is done. Work for me at Washington, pass my disciplinary inspection bill, or-be Thus, to the writer's knowledge, ranches

developed after years of labor and com-plying scrupulously with all Government regulations have titles no better than waste paper to hand their descendants! Their very existence hangs under the new rule of Eminent Domination! Far worse than even the stealing of Government timber for private enrichment is this deliberate stubborn and malign holding of the best types of Americanism in the leash woven of

ust for power.
And while Western enterprise languishes, those littlest Americans, servile parasites, who, creating nothing, always cluster around autocracy, are waiting in Washington until Congress shall pass an appropriation to be apped for petty blackmail and graft.

Special Delivery Letters. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The advan tages of the special delivery service furnished by the Post Office Department are too obvious to require a single word of commendation. There is, however, one drawback that amounts to a positive nuisance, namely, the requirement of a special stamp. It may be presumed that the Government is concerned only with the collection of the revenue This being the case I submit a suggestion to which

can see no valid objection.
Instead of requiring a special stamp, which few people have at hand, permit any one to attach 10 cents worth of stamps of any denomination, in addition to the regular postage, merely writing under the surplus postage the words "Special Delivery." There may be some conclusive objection to the plan have suggested, but if so, I shall be glad to have CHICAG June 26.

Dr. Crutcher's suggestion has been anticipated by the Government, and at the last session of Congress it was enacted into law. The statute will go into effect on Monday of next week. On and after that day ten cents worth of postage stamps affixed to an enwritten above them, will answer the purpose for which a special stamp is now required.

The Motorman's Burden.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I doubt if the attack on the unfortunate motorman who had just killed a child was due entirely to hot weather madness. People are beginning to understand that a reckless rate of speed and inefficient and antiquated appliances for controlling their cars are among the incidentals that figure out a profit for the surface

The almost daily record of ambulance wrecking shows more than anything else the disregard of consequences under which motormen are compelled to work in order to comply with the company's New Yorkers owe to the officers of the street car

mpanies the establishment of our present "traffic squad' for the regulation and restraint of drivers of wagons and trucks, whereby the comfort and safety of our streets has been greatly improved. Their duties should be extended at once to the con-NEW YORK, June 26.

Kind Words for Jamestown

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Ser: In THE SUN a Jamestown exposition knocker from Asbury Park, igning himself "J. T. W.," ventilates his vapor The synonyms of knocker are; skater, piker. grafter, scalper, faker, squealer, flusher, bluffer outter, quitter, booger and free luncher, Now, the Jamestown exposition is visited daily by thousands of people from all points of the com-

pass, who are as a rule enthusiastic over such a magnificent creation. The architectural and land-scape beauty, combined with the marine beauty, the naval display and military manœuvres, surely are something not seen every day. The Government exhibits are complete. The installation of exhibits, owing to the congested conditions of traffic, has been slow. The Warpath offers a diver sity of first class, enjoyable entertainments. P. H. NAUGHTON. NORPOLE, Va., June 26.

Question for Authorities on Law. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: This mornin we discovered on the pavement outside our office in lower Wall street a miniature mountain of refuse Upon telephoning the city department so ably overseen by Mr. Craven, we were informed that they were having some trouble with their drivers, and that our discovery probably represented a load

dumped by one of them. Now I believe the assurance from headquarters that this mound of dirt will be attended to, but what I would like to know is whether the same law that was applied to the careless broker with the apple pore is not applicable to the city employee who chooses to dump a load of filth in our street ingly because at that moment he does not happen quite "on the job" for which he is paid NEW YORK, June 26.

"Blue Ball" and "Punkin Head" Churches

Peru correspondence Indianapolis News.
Two Christian churches in this vicinity have
peculiar names. West of this city is the Blue Ball Church, and on the Pulaski-Fulton county line stands the Punkin Head Church. When the former was built, thirty years ago, the trustees placed a ball covered with gold leaf on the spire. For a while the ball shone like gold, and then I turned blue. Hence the nickname. Three years ago the trustees had the ball painted blue. The other church received its name because some boys one time clambered to the top of the spire, on which they placed a large pumpkin. The churchgoers were first shocked, and then accepted the name. and in the conference books both churches are now designated by their respective titles.

GHAVILLE, Ark., June 27.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your correspondent M. R. Wright in The SUN of June 28 does not seem to be from Arkansas. The time has not yet come, here, when "damn fool" is so common as yet come. here, when the more "cultured" lands.
The way we say it is: "From Arkansaw. Now,
The way we say it is: "From Arkansaw. Now,
Isught" B. U. SAURIS.

THE DISTRESS IN THE MIDI.

An Intelligent American View of Its Cause

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: There is no doubt that actual poverty and depres-sion are the causes of the strange revolt in the south of France which has occupied the attention of the world for some weeks. Nei-ther is there any difference of opinion as to the fact that the poverty and depression are due to the impossibility of selling at a price which covers the cost of production the wine which is the staple product of the disturbed But at this point all agreement ends. There are all sorts of reasons given for the had market for wines, and various programmes are suggested for the restoration of prosperity in the afflicted corner of the Midi.

Of course the theory of the Midi wine growers themselves is that their distress is due to the flooding of the market with fabricated and fraudulent wines. Their banners, carried a heir various Sunday demonstrations since the outbreak began, proclaimed it. memorials to the Government asserted it. Their speakers and their newspapers harped on it. Their rallying cry is: "Vive le vin pur! A bas les empoisonneurs!" They stand by this cry of "Down with the poisoners!" through thick and thin. The Count de Mo-linier, a wine grower of the south of France. now in this city, in an interview published a day or two ago in THE SUN confirmed the statement by cable that the competitors of whom the Midi most bitterly complains are the eet sugar growers of the north. As he put it, there is a sugar trust with a capital of 300,000,000 francs which is endeavoring to make France, and incidentally America and other regions, drink chemically prepared wines instead of the natural juice of the grape. The advocates of the pure wine men back up their cause with many picturesquely unpleasant details about worked over refuse from the wine press, artificial coloring matter

and chemical flavors. But although the French chambers are shaping for enactment a more stringent law against the adulteration of wine the charge of the south seems to be by no means regarded throughout the country as proved in its full extent. That some fraudulent and unwholesome wine gets into the French market and is sold at ruinously low prices may be taken for granted, but it is asserted that this is a matter of no serious moment either to the Midi or to the sugar cultivators. The amount is too small. The only extensive use of sugar in the wine trade, they say, is to enrich the grape juice in certain parts of the country and thus increase the product and improve its quality. So far from being a ubject for repressive legislation, it is argued this practice is perfectly legitimate, and it would be poor policy indeed on the part of the national Legislature to attempt to restore prosperity to one quarter of France, the Midi, by depriving a much greater section in the north of a highly profitable branch of agriculture through killing the best market

for its sugar crop. Coupled with this line of argument come the proposition that the distress in the Midi is really due to overproduction. One authority says that since the Midi has overcome the phylloxera pest by the introduction of the American grape it has been producing more wine than it has any right to expect to sell. Another says not the Midi alone but all France is producing too much wine and the low price is simply caused by a glut of the commodity. For this position, however, there seems to be no statistical backing. It is pointed out that in 1841 the French vine yards occupied a space of about 2,000,000 hectares, while to-day they cover only about 1,750,000 hectares, a diminution of about one-eighth. The same authority gives the annual production of wine averaged for the last five years as about 50,000,000 hectolitres against 45,000,000 hectolitres in 1841. To show that this increase of 5,000,000 hectolitre has no effect on the price, it is stated that the average amount taxed on sale for the last five years exceeds by 24,000,000 hectolitres

the amount taxed on sale in 1841. As for the proposition that the wine depart ments of the Midi are guilty of overproduc-tion, it is stated that the mean production of Hérault from 1874 to 1877, just before the phylloxera visitation, was 9,000,000 hectolitres a year, and it was 9,400,000 for the period 1903-1906. The phylloxera only reached Aude in 1883; the average for the three preceding years was 4,750,000 hectolitres, and for the last three years it was 4,770,000 hectolitres. During the three periods 1890-1884, 1890-1894 and 1902-1908 the wine production for all France was thirty-one, thirty-five and orty-nine and a half millions of hectolitres a year, while for the same periods for Herault and Aude it was eight and a half, ten and thirteen and a half million hectolitres, or about 271, 281, and 28 per cent. of the total vintage. In other words, the ratio between the Midi's production of wine and that of the entire country has remained practically unchanged and no allegation of a production exceeding the normal can be maintained in either case.

A more probable explanation of the drop in the market is to be found in the competi-tion of other beverages with wine, and in this respect the Midi seems to be as much responsible as any other section. The growing use of beer has something to do with the diminished consumption of wine, but it bears no comparison to the absorption of brandy and of absinthe. In the period of 1865 to 1869 inclusive the amount of eau-de-vie consumed in France averaged two and a half litres per inhabitant. To-day the excise statistics show a consumption of three and a half litres per inhabitant, and it is said that the quantity of contraband amounts to a litre a head more. This growth in brandy tippling is not a net addition to the consumption of alcohol. Wine and brandy figure as enemies in French statistics. In the wine growing provinces, the use of brandy, beer and cider is relatively small. In Aude, a wine Department, the con sumption of brandy is but one and a half litres head. In the Seine-Supérieur, where they make cider, the average consumption of it is twelve litres per inhabitant.

As for absinthe, it has taken possession even of the Midi itself. It has invaded Montpellier, Nimes, Cette, Marseilles, Toulon, all the cities along or near the Mediterranean coast. Midi consumes 100,000 hectolitres of absinthe at proof every year. How enormous the competition of this noxious drug with wine must be is shown by the figures of its sale. France at large swallows 300,000 hectolitres, which are regarded as furnishing 480,000,000 consommations," or drinks, as one would say in New York. These are sold at 20 centimes or four cents, each and 20 centimes is the retail price in France of a litre of healthful low grade wine, such as the people at large use as beverage. Here, then, is a loss of nearly 100,000,000 france, or \$20,000,000, annually to the wine trade. Realizing this, the viticultural associations have been joining hands with the hygienists and the temperance element for the total prohibition of absinthe in France, bu the habit of taking it as an appetizer has such hold on the entire nation that the fight is an uphill one.

One of the cries that has been raised against the Midi is that of perversity and folly in continuing to devote the land to vineyards when they no longer pay. This point was frankly dealt with in a petition to the Senate and Chamber framed at Nimes in the early part of last month. It said:

"The vine is the only resource of our lands without water; we have had conclusive exper ience of this during the invasion of the phyl-Unable to bear cereals and fodder loxera. our fields remained uncultivated and our country, abandoned by the inhabitants which it could not support, presented only a spectacle of misery. "You would not wish, Senators and Depu-

ties, that these evil days should fall on us a second time. It would be inhuman and unjust after the effort made by two successive generations to reestablish the vine, you know at the price of what sacrifices "You know the riches of a region which would be an inexhaustible granary of abun dance for France if it could utilize but a small

part of the water which the Rhone now casts into the sea as a pure loss. Is France incap-able of doing for these Departments what Italy did long ago for the plains of Lombardy? "For half a century irrigation canals fed by the Rhone figure periodically in all our storal programmes. The danger which now impends over us compels us to remind

those whom we have elected of the promises

"You must construct, gentlemen, those irrigation canals which alone can give us security in the future. We expect them as a

ight; we claim them from your justice." Little has been said about this solution of the troubles of the three or four Departments in which the distress prevails. The project involves a great sum of money. But probably it is the only real and permanent way of meeting the conditions, and it is not impossible that when the disorders are checked some effort may be made to create gradually great system of irrigation for the section north of the Pyrenees and west of the Mediteranean. It is likely that it would pay for tself within a generation in the new produc-iveness that it would give to a region with a naturally fertile soil, plenty of sunlight and a frugal and on the whole industrious popu-

NEW YORK, June 27.

THE SCHOOLS AND THE PARKS.

etual and Proposed Disfigurement

Crotona Park -The "Athletic Field." TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In 1903 it was advocated strongly by certain mem-bers of the city government that it would be a good idea to use various sites in the different parks, both small and large, for the occupation of cheap temporary schoolhouses. A general protest in the press and elsewhere nong a large number of citizens interested in the parks was made immediately and the idea was given up because it was recognized that temporary cheap schoolhouses would linger in the parks for an unlimited time, and because the need for schools was increasing so much beyond the apparent ability of the oity to appropriate money that no limit, though ever so distant, could be fixed for

their retention in the parks.

When the idea of temporary schoolhouses was abandoned it was done because it was realized that a beautiful park could not be nade to coexist with a schoolhouse site or playground, and that the functions of a school mmissioner could not be allowed to trench on those of a park commissioner, and because the park idea includes the sesthetic and purely healthful enjoyment of both the rich and poor, the old and young, and only contemplates the educational idea as a side and very minor issue; and the public school, on the other hand, it was said, undertakes above everything to train systematically the body

and mind of the young.

After the schoolhouses in parks idea was bandoned little was heard of efforts of the public schools to establish large athletic fields other features of the educational system in the parks.

A certain degree of success attended the effort to establish an athletic field in The Bronx for schools, and now one has been constructed in one of the most beautiful lawns and groves in Crotona Park, where its running track and fences have not only sadly marred the park scenery, but the control of the place has been conceded to the public schools, thus denying the use of this section to the general public as a park, to which their right is inalienable. Already murmurs may be heard on all sides against this perversion of the rights of the public to this especially

lovely spot. Even now the evil effect of ceding the athletic field in Crotona Park is making itself still more apparent. It is said that a move-ment is on foot to erect within its borders a grand stand with toilets and dressing rooms and shower baths for the use of the public schools exclusively. The stand itself, it is said, is to be used only by the members of ertain schools, and the plans and money for he building are to be furnished by the Board of Education. The entire proposition of thletic fields in parks under the jurisdiction of the public schools is an unsound and unwise one and should not be entertained for moment.

NEW YORK, June 27.

The Other Side of the World. The Government of Australia proposes to replace nciliation boards by wages boards on the State allways.

The Australian Premiers' Conference disapproved the proposed transfer of the Northern Territory of South Australia to the Commonwealth. The British Indian Government has increased the

pensions of native soldiers. The Australian Premiers' Conference resolved that equal trade conditions should prevail for all nationalities throughout the Pacific, and that British and foreign regulations disabiling Australian traders should be annulled.

Manufacturing is increasing in New South Wales. Figures for 1906 show increases of 128 factories and 5,583 workers. The increase is most marked in the building trades, in metal works and in establishments using raw materials

Corea, says Prof. Ladd of Yale University, after a recent two months stay there, is now free from intrigues and commotions, and is reaping the benefit of the agricultural and other reforms introduced in the last ten years.

It costs \$100,000,000 a year to maintain the army British India, an increase of \$40,000,000 a year in thirty-five years.

Black opals of great beauty are found in Queens land, Australia, besides fifty-six other kinds of precious stones.

The Muho and Kuanying Shan gold mines in Hellungkiang, China, which have been restored to China by Russia on the repayment of the expense incurred by the latter during the last several years. are said to be still very rich, and may be again made prosperous if sufficient funds are put into the working of them. It takes money to get money out of a mine.

Australia is rapidly increasing her imports of iron and steel manufactures, steam and other engines. ocomotives, electrical machinery and agricultura nplements, but most of the orders are going to Great Britain.

The London Statist says that the total value of the exports of Australasia in the period from 1906 to 1910, inclusive, apart from any further expansion after the end of 1907, will amount to about \$1 000, or, if no drought, probably more than \$2,000. 000,000, in contrast to only \$805,000,000 in the five years from 1886 to 1890, a growth in only twenty years of from 150 to 180 per cent.

Jury Was Sceptical.

From the Linn Creek Reveille Judge Fox of the Supreme Court killed a turkey in southeast Missouri the day after the hunting season closed. When his attention was called to his violation of the law he went before the grand jury and made a complaint, telling how he had made a wonderfully long shot and did not expect to kill the turkey, but instructed the jurors that was their duty to indict him, especially as it was his duty to know the law, and his oversight was therefore the more inexcusable.

When he afterward inquired why he was not fined for the misdemeanor he was informed that the dury did not believe he could have killed a turkey as far as he claimed to have shot

Last of Famous Lumber Boom From the Philadelphia Record.

The world famous Susquehanna boom at Williams ort is soon to become a thing of the past. It is stated that the lumber companies now putting log nto the West Branch will close out their stock in two more annual drives, after which the boom company will erect a sawmill themselves and manu facture the lumber contained in the bo rafting platforms and crib timbers. A stone crusher employed to make marketable the stones with which the cribs are filled, and the boom will be entirely abandoned.

North Carolina Fire Eater. From the Bakersville Observer.

Andy McGee, who carries the mail from M to Bakersville, is a monstrosity. He can eat live coals of fire with impunity, and with a spoon. If you doubt this just bring him a live coal and nickel and he will masticate the coal and pocket the nickel. This is not all, for he told us for one dollar he would pour a spanful of molten lead in his mouth and let it cool and then take it out and give us a solid piece. What can the devil do with

Hair Cut Without Orders From the Koreun Daily News

A native paper states that the magistrate at An Hyun has arrested a great number of people belonging to the Il Chiu Hol society, and having charged them with cutting their hair without any forged. The sympathizers of the society and its members have held crowded meetings and violent speeches have been made denouncing the unwarranted action of the official

THE ANGLICIZING OF PRINCETON.

Neither Clubs Nor Quads; Just Princeton!" Says One Son of Old Nassau.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: When in June, 1902, President Patton of Princeton resigned the position which for fourteen years he had held with honor to himself and the benefits of a progressively conservative administration to the university, the election of his successor was accomplished by the trustees with good grace and despatch. Woodrow Wilson went to the helm, and one or two ambitious aspirants retired quietly to their berths forward, to indulge their heartburnings in secret and seclusion.

Naturally, there was much speculation as to the probable policies of the new head; but doubts were promptly resolved. In his inaugural address at the opening of the academic year of 1902-03 the new president of Princeton declared his trust in the foundations laid by earlier governors; but when in that and other public declarations he filled in the outlines of his plans it was seen that the superstructure he hoped to erect was far beyond the dreams of the builders who had preceded him. "Pretty big figures," said the doubters. "The money will come," said the architect; and it has come and is coming After five years of Wilson the doubters of 1962, confronted by an imposing array of new buildings-recitation hall and dormitoriesand a reorganized faculty and curriculum, with the preceptorial machinery running smoothly and with unostentatious effective-

ness, are less in evidence. Now out of Princeton comes a new sensa-tion for academic circles. The upper class clubs, it is reported, are to go, and it is planned to rearrange the life of the campus community, to pattern it on the "Oxford idea," with the undergraduates living in organized cen-tres, by dormitory "quads." While definite information of the proposed change is meagre and unofficial, there are aspects of it which may fairly be made the subject of comment as related to problems which confront the

larger colleges in general.
"College spirit," which is not a dead word, but a very live thing, is conserved by consoli-dation, dissipated by distribution. The class. the club, each similar imperium in imperio. is useful only as it represents and is wholly subordinate to the interests of the university As to secret organizations, if genuinely secret they are undesirable; otherwise they are a mere farce. A proposition to do away with the pseudo secrecy of Clio and Whig would be popular on the Princeton campus to-day. And frankly social clubs, as those at Princeton have always been, are and must inevitably be a menace to the democracy which the colleges worship-too often hypocritically. At Princeton the menace is the greater because of the mparatively isolated situation of the college

in a small town, off the "main line." Princeton can well spare the clubs, and the disbandment and the disposition of their property is a matter that lies between the university and the clubs themselves. It is not a matter of fair concern to the academic world beyond the borders of the Princeton campus-though it is a problem that will require delicate handling and the solution of which it will be interesting to watch.

Where, then, does the proposition impinge upon public interest? The answer is, in the Oxford. It's all well enough to get what you need, wherever you find it. Shakespeare was a famous borrower and no respecter of nationalities, and probably had Mr. Dooley appeared a few centuries earlier the Bard of Avon would have cribbed life interest from the pages of his chronicles. But why, when we want new ideas, do we always run to England, the land of old ideas?

There is force in the contention that social organization in "quad" units will tend to a reproduction of the old conditions under a new name. Social distinctions there must and ever will be-that's human nature; but it pays no more to try to dig channels into which they may be artificially directed than to build walls to block them off.

Let the clubs ge-and with them the elec-tioneering spirit which cannot be eliminated by "club treaties" even though these formal agreements do abolish the open practice; with them, too, the unavoidable emphasis upon distinctions of wealth and social rank. Kill the club traditions-Princeton traditions there are, enough and good enough for all Leave the campus system as it is. Let the student life, centring as it does about the present halls, order itself. The term "student government" is not often used in Princeton, but the principle prevails.

No clubs—no quads; that is the desire of one who five years ago was proud to be a graduate, not of Ivy, nor of Cap and Gown, of Tiger Inn or Cottage or Colonial or any of the others, but of Old Nassau.

NEW YORK. June 27.

Suggestion by an English University Man. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your correspondent "Ivy" makes a great difficulty about the manner in which President Wilson's proposed "quads" would be filled up. He says they must either be filled up by the authorities, in which case adieu to all social life worth having, or else by the students in which case they would reproduce the social

conditions of the present clubs This does not seem to be a logical dilemma. Parents might send their sons to this or that quad, as they chose. At Oxford and Camoridge the system of parental choice practically works out in each college containing students of all social classes and of all ages.

Moreover, "Ivy" seems to over ook the fact that President Wilson refers chiefly to the desirability of mixing men c/ different university classes or ages.

To the Sixth Generation

BOSTON, June 26.

From the Westminster Gazette It is given to few men, as to M. T. Wulischleger of the Canton of Vaud, to celebrate the birth of a great-great-granddaughter, but even more remark

ble experiences than this are on record.

Dr. Plot in his "Natural History of Staffordshire" juotes the case of Old Mary Cooper of King's Bromley, who lived to see the sixth generation of her descendants, and was in the position to say "Rise up, daughter, and go to thy daughter, fo thy daughter's granddaughter hath a daughter while Horace Walpole lived to see seven descent in one family, the progeny of Mrs. Godfrey, mistress of James II.

It is not long since the Dowager Duchess of Aber-corn died, leaving more than 200 direct descendants at least four of whom were great-great-grand-children. About the same time Mrs. Sarah Ann Woolf of Utah nursed her twenty-third great great-grandchild, one of 303 living descendants while it is said of a Spanlard who returned from America to his native land a few years ago that he was accompanied by 280 of his descendants, in cluding three great-great-grandsons.

To Dance Woodticks Out of Valley

From the Hamuton Western News. A social function, probably the first event of the kind in the history of the world, will be given at Florence next Saturday evening. The affair has been heralded throughout the valley by means of posters, which read as follows:
"Woodtick dance. To be given in Woodmer

Hall, Florence, Saturday evening, June 22, 1907. This dance is for the purpose of raising funds to burn brush and other necessary measures to rid including supper, \$1.50."

the west side of its pest, the woodtick. Tickets The theory is generally accepted that the so-called spotted fever is caused by the bite of an infected

A New Tobacco Cure.

From the Fulton Gazette.
"The anti-spitting ordinance in Fulton did a good thing for me," said Claud Mountjoy, a Round Prairie township farmer, who was here last Saturda; "I happened to be in town one stock sales day, jus after the law went into effect, and for feaf I would spit on the sidewalk before I thought I failed to take a chew of tobacco all day and went without till I got home. I told my wife about it, and she suggested to me that if I could guit chewing that long I could quit altogether, and from that day to this I haven't used it."

For the Relief of Music Lovers. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I would sur rest that public singers in vaudeville and other theatres be compelled to pass a regular examina-tion as to their fitness to sing in public. Doctors, letter carriers, Government employees, &c., do this

why not public singers? NEW YORK, June 27.